



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Wildlife Division  
PO Box 200701  
Helena MT 59620-0701  
December 15, 2014

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on four separate items, as follows. The deadline for public comment on all of these items is by 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 14.

## **Wildlife Management Area Public Use Rules – Proposed**

The F&W Commission adopted a set of public use rules for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas (WHPAs) in December 2012. These rules are scheduled for updating—if needed—and adoption by the Commission every two years. A brief summary of recommended changes include the following:

- Addition of Fisheries Conservation Areas (FCAs) to the list of properties covered by the public use rules. FCAs are lands administered by the Fisheries Division of FWP that were purchased primarily for fisheries habitat conservation, but also provide public access benefits.
- Clarification of public uses and restrictions on FCAs and WHPAs, including pets, riding stock, camping, fires, hunting blinds, and trapping.
- Clarification of camping opportunities and restrictions on WMAs in Region 6.
- Prohibition of exploding targets.

## **2015 Hunting Seasons – Proposed**

- 2015 Black Bear Quotas – No Changes Proposed from 2014
- 2015 Spring Turkey Quotas – Turkey HD 395, Increase general permits from 35 to 50 and increase youth permits from 5 to 10.
- 2015 Deer Hunting Regulations
  - Region 3
    - HD 300 – Issue 75 mule deer antlerless B-licenses
    - HD 331 – Issue 200 mule deer antlerless B-licenses
  - Region 6
    - For all Region 6 HDs except HD 652 – Allow either-sex mule deer to be taken with a general license
  - Region 7
    - Issue mule deer antlerless B-licenses for the individual hunting districts, the number issued to be determined on a sliding scale based on the spring survey results. If the spring 2015 surveys are below the long-term average in a hunting district then no B-licenses would be issued for that district.

## **COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE AND FINAL ADOPTION MEETINGS**

The public comment period on the above proposals will extend through 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with final adoption at the February 12<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

## **TO MAKE COMMENT**

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded links below can be found under “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the Fish & Wildlife and Hunting home pages at the [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) website. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701

### **2015-16 Biennial WMA Public Use Rules – Proposed**

[http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014/2015\\_16biennialWMAUseRules.html](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014/2015_16biennialWMAUseRules.html)

### **2015 Black Bear Quotas – Proposed**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014/2015blackBearQuotas.html>

### **2015 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014/2015springTurkeyQuotas.html>

### **2015 Deer Hunting Seasons – Proposed**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014/2015deerHuntingSeasonsDistricts.html>